As per estimates made by Confederation of India Textile Industry (CITI), for every export loss of rupees one crore, there would be a job loss of 34-35 workers. However, no physical quantification of actual job losses, on account of appreciation of the rupee, has been made by CITI.

The Government has announced several relief measures to support the textiles industry, which has been representing that textile exports have been affected by the appreciation of the value of rupee *vis-a-vis* the US Dollar. These measures include the following:—

(i) DEPB rates enhanced by 3% for 9 sectors including textiles (also handlooms), RMGs and handicrafts. For other items, DEPB rates enhanced by 2%.

(ii) ECGC premimum reduced by 10%.

(iii) Amount of Rs. 600 crore released for clearing arrears of CST reimbursement and terminal excise duty.

(iv) Duty drawback rates enhanced by 10-40% of the existing rates.

(v) Subvention on credit rate allowed upto 4% including interest subsidy of 2%.

(vi) Refund of service tax paid by exporters on services linked to export of goods *viz* port services for exports, transport of goods by road from container depot to port of export, general insurance services for insurance of goods for export, technical testing and analysis agency services and inspection and certification services, storage & warehousing services and clearing activity services.

(vii) Customs duty on intermediates for Polyester staple fibre and polyester filament yarn reduced from 7.5% to 5%.

(viii) Customs duty on paraxylene, a raw material for the intermediate PTA reduced from 2%t0%.

(ix) Customs duty reduced on other man-made filament yarn & staple fibres of acrylic & viscose from 10% to 5%.

(x) Customs duty reduced on spun yarn of man-made staple fibres & filament yarn (other than nylon) from 10% to 5%.

(xi) Customs duty reduced on polyester chips from 7.5% to 5%.

Urban Haats at Bagalkot and Mangalore

3992. SHRIRAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

whether it is fact that two proposals for setting up of Urban Haats at Bagalkot and Mangalore in Kamataka submitted to the Central Government for approval and the release of central financial assistance for the same are pending; and

if so, by when they are likely to be approved and financial assistance released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As soon as the formalities are completed, the proposals will be put up within one month before the High Level Screening Committee on Urban Haat for the decision on the proposals.

Weavers groups registering under Goods Registration and Protection Act, 1999

3993. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

whether the regional weavers groups to protect their economic interest are registering under the Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods Registration and Protection Act, 1999;

if so, how many groups from Andhra Pradesh have been registered so far;

the brake-up of weaver's applications submitted for GI Protection during last three years and number of registrations taken place, year-wise; and

the steps being taken to sensitize the weaver groups to go for GI registration and the resultant impact thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been providing financial assistance @ Rs. 1.50 lakh for each handloom product to register udner the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 under the Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme through the concerned State Government/agencies.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that Pochampally Ikkat has already been registered by them under the Act in 2004. The Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has provided financial assistance for registering additional 4 items under the Act.

The details of proposals received in this office from the State Governments/agencies for registration under the Act during the last 3 years are given below:

Year	Number of proposals received for registration under the GI. Act	Number of viable proposals sanctioned for registration under the GI. Act
2005-06	—	—
200647	74	20
2007-08	08	—

(d) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has been following up with all State Governments from time to time for registering items under the Act. As per the information received , some of me States have conducted workshop/seminar/survey etc. to make aware of the benefits of me Act. The Act would confer legal protection to the items registered and prevent such registered items from unauthorised use by others.